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January to December 2004 commercial red meat production was 45.4 billion pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Accumulated beef production was down 6 percent from last year, veal was down 13 percent, pork was up 3 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 3 percent.

Red Meat Production Colorado and United States

Area and Specie	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	January-December	
	2003	2004	2004	2003	2004
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	140.6	149.2	142.0	1,983.5	1,973.1
United States:	3,884.0	3,769.0	3,931.0	46,576.0	45,414.0
Beef	1,978.0	1,940.0	2,042.0	26,238.0	24,544.0
Veal	19.0	13.8	14.9	191.7	167.1
Pork	1,869.0	1,799.0	1,857.0	19,946.0	20,509.0
Lamb & Mutton	18.0	16.5	17.0	199.7	193.7

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER DECEMBER 2004

Production of red meat in **Colorado** during December 2004 totaled 142.0 million pounds, 1 percent above the same month a year earlier but 5 percent below November 2004. **Beef** slaughter during December was down 2 percent from a year ago to 168,200 head but the average live weight increased 27 pounds to 1,282. **Hog** slaughter was placed at 900 head for December 2004, down from 1,000 head a year earlier. The average live weight of 263 pounds was 3 pounds above a year earlier. The preliminary **total red meat production** for all months of 2004 totaled 1.97 billion pounds, down less than 1 percent from the 1.98 billion pounds produced during 2003.

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.93 billion pounds in December, up 1 percent from the 3.88 billion pounds produced in December 2003. **Beef production**, at 2.04 billion pounds, was 3 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.69 million head, up 1 percent from December 2003. The average live weight was up 24 pounds from the previous year, at 1,268 pounds.

Veal production totaled 14.9 million pounds, 22 percent below December a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 74,700 head, down 23 percent from December 2003. The average live weight was 12 pounds above last year, at 334 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.86 billion pounds, down 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.25 million head, 1 percent below December 2003. The average live weight was 1 pound above the previous year, at 270 pounds. **Lamb and mutton production**, at 17.0 million pounds, was down 6 percent from December 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 242,400 head, 7 percent below last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, up 3 pounds from December a year ago.

CATTLE INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2005

The January 1, 2005 inventory of all cattle and calves in **Colorado** totaled 2.50 million head, up 100,000 head from January 1, 2004. Beef cows, at 639,000 head, were up 27,000 from the previous year. Improvement in cattle prices and pasture and range conditions prompted ranchers to begin rebuilding herds that were reduced the last two years due to drought. Milk cows increased 3,000 head from last year to 101,000 head. Colorado's 2004 calf crop was up 1 percent from last year to 740,000. Other class estimates as of January 1, 2005 and percent changes from 2004 were as follows: Beef replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, up 37 percent from last year to 130,000; milk replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, up 11 percent to 50,000 head; other heifers 500 pounds and over, down 2 percent to 570,000; steers 500 pounds and over, up 2 percent to 840,000; bulls 500 pounds and over, up 14 percent to 40,000; and calves under 500 pounds, up 13 percent to 130,000 head. The total inventory included 1,100,000 head of cattle and calves on feed, which was up 4 percent from January 1, 2004.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2005, totaled 95.8 million head, 1 percent above the 94.9 million on January 1, 2004. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million, were up 1 percent from the 41.9 million on January 1,

2004. Beef cows, at 33.06 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2004. Milk cows, at 9.01 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2004.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2005, and the change from January 1, 2004, are as follows: All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.7 million, up 2 percent. Beef replacement heifers, 5.75 million, up 4 percent. Milk replacement heifers, 4.13 million, up 3 percent. Other heifers, 9.79 million, down slightly. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, up 1 percent. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.22 million, up 1 percent. Calves under 500 pounds, 15.4 million, up 1 percent. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.7 million, down slightly.

The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 27.9 million, up 2 percent.

The 2004 calf crop was estimated at 37.6 million head, down 1 percent from 2003. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.4 million, down 1 percent from 2003.

SHEEP AND LAMB INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2005

The January 1, 2005 inventory of all sheep and lambs in **Colorado** totaled 365,000 head, up 1 percent from the 360,000 on hand as of January 1, 2004. The number of breeding sheep and lambs was unchanged from last year at 170,000 head while the number of market sheep and lambs increased 3 percent to 195,000. There was a 15 percent increase in the number of replacement lambs to 30,000 head. The number of ewes one year old and older declined 3 percent to 135,000 head, while the number of rams one year old and older was unchanged from last year at 5,000. Of the 195,000 head of market sheep and lambs, 1,000 head were market sheep and 194,000 head were market lambs. There were 2,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, the same number as a year earlier; 6,000 were in the 65-84 pound weight group, up from 4,000 from the previous year; 39,000 weighed 85-105 pounds compared with 18,000 last year; and 147,000 weighed over 105 pounds compared with the 165,000 head in this weight group on January 1, 2004. The 2004 lamb crop, at 165,000 head, was down 8 percent from the 2003 lamb crop of 180,000.

All sheep and lamb inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2005, totaled 6.14 million head, up slightly from 2004, but 3 percent below two years ago. The inventory has leveled off and is showing a slight increase for the first time since 1990. Breeding sheep inventory increased to 4.53 million head on January 1, 2005, up 1 percent from 4.50 million head on January 1, 2004. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.57 million head, were 1 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2005, totaled 1.60 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2004. Market lambs

comprised 95 percent of the total marketings. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 13 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent were 85 - 105 pounds, 32 percent were over 105 pounds, and 5 percent were market sheep.

The 2004 lamb crop of 4.10 million head, a record low, was down 1 percent from 2003. The 2004 lambing rate was 113 lambs per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2004, up 3 percent from 2003.

WOOL PRODUCTION - 2004

Wool production in **Colorado** during 2004 totaled 2.57 million pounds, down from 2.58 million pounds produced in 2003. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 390,000 head, was up 8 percent from 360,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2004 totaled \$2.19 million, up 14 percent from a year earlier as producers received 85 cents per pound of wool sold compared with 74 cents per pound the previous year.

Shorn wool production in the **United States** during 2004 was 37.6 million pounds, down 2 percent from 2003. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.07 million head, down slightly from 2003. The average price paid for wool sold in 2004 was \$0.80 per pound for a total value of \$29.9 million dollars, up 6 percent from \$28.1 million dollars in 2003.

GOAT INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2004

All goat inventory in **Colorado** on January 1, 2005, totaled 24,000 head. Meat and all other goats accounted for 16,000 head compared with 11,976 on December 31, 2002 in the 2002 Census of Agriculture. Milk goats totaled 7,000 head, up from 5,581 in the 2002 Census and angora goats totaled 1,000 head, virtually unchanged from 1,004 reported in the 2002 Census.

All goat inventory in the **United States** on January 1, 2005, totaled 2.5 million head. Breeding goat inventory totaled 2.1 million head and market goats totaled 0.4 million head. On January 1, 2005, meat and all other goats totaled 1.97 million head, milk goats totaled 283,500 head and angora goats totaled 274,000 head. The 2004 kid crop was 1.67 million head for all goats.

Mohair production in the **United States** during 2004 was 1.94 million pounds. Goats and kids clipped totaled 269,500 head. Average weight per clip was 7.2 pounds. Mohair price was 1.97 per pound with a value of 3.8 million dollars. Goat data provided in this report are results of the first annual goat survey.

AGRICULTURAL PRICES

JANUARY 15, 2005

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in January, at 110, based on 1990-92=100, is 1 point (0.9 percent) below the December Index. The Crop Index is down 3 points (2.9 percent) while the Livestock Index is up 1 point (0.8 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for broilers, cattle, oranges, and snap beans. Lower prices were received for tomatoes, dairy, eggs, and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of cattle, corn, soybeans, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of grapes, dairy, tobacco, and cotton. This preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 2 points (1.8 percent) from January 2004. The Food Commodities Index, at 115, is 1 point (0.9 percent) below last month but 2 points (1.8 percent) above January 2004.

The January **All Crops Index** is 100, down 2.9 percent from December and 12 percent below January 2004. The January all wheat price, at \$3.42 per bushel, is up 3 cents from December but 26 cents below January 2004. The corn price, at \$1.98 per bushel, is down 6 cents from December and 41 cents below January 2004. The all hay price, at \$84.20 per ton, is 10 cents below December but \$4.10 above last January. Grain sorghum, at \$2.87 per cwt, is down 12 cents from December and \$1.49 below last January. The soybean price, at \$5.32 per bushel, decreased 13 cents from December and is \$2.03 below January 2004. The all potato price, at \$5.35 per cwt, is up 8 cents from December but 40 cents below last January. The all dry bean price, at \$27.00 per cwt, is up 30 cents from the previous month and \$9.80 above January 2004.

The January **Livestock and Products Index**, at 121, is up 0.8 percent from last month and up 10 percent from January 2004. The January hog price of \$53.00 per cwt is up \$0.70 from December and up \$10.20 from a year ago. The January beef cattle price of \$89.10 is up \$2.30 from last month and up \$8.20 from January 2004. The January all milk price of \$15.90 per cwt is down \$0.50 from last month but up \$2.70 from December 2004.

Prices Received and Paid Summary United States

Index 1990-92 = 100	2003		2004		2005
	Dec.	Jan.	Dec.	Jan.	Jan.
	Percent				
Prices Received	114	112	111	110	110
Prices Paid	129	130	133	134	134
Ratio 1/	88	86	83	82	82

1/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid.

Compared with January 2004, all **Colorado** crop prices except dry beans, alfalfa hay, other hay averaged lower. Prices for all livestock items averaged higher than a year ago except lambs. Mid-January 2005 wheat, at \$3.24 per bushel, decreased 7 cents from the previous month and was 44 cents below January a year ago. Corn, at \$1.88 per bushel, averaged 34 cents below December 2004 and was 63 cents below January 2004. The all barley price of \$2.95 per bushel averaged 8 cents under January 2004 but was 11 cents above December 2004. The mid-January potato price, at \$4.65 per cwt, was up 5 cents from last month but

down 40 cents per cwt from January a year ago. Dry beans prices decreased \$1.40 per cwt from December to \$28.80 per cwt but were \$10.60 per cwt higher than January last year. Alfalfa hay, at \$86.00 per ton, was unchanged last month but \$3.00 above January 2004. The other hay price, at \$81.00 per ton, was unchanged from last month but was \$8.00 above the January 2004 price. The mid-January steer and heifer price, at \$108.00 per cwt, increased \$2.00 per cwt from last month and was \$13.90 above a year ago. Cow prices increased \$3.80 per cwt from December to \$52.80 per cwt and averaged \$7.40 per cwt above January 2004. The mid-January 2005 calf price was unchanged from last month at \$126.00 per cwt but was \$12.00 above a year ago.

Average Prices Received By Farmers 1/

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Jan. 2004	Dec. 2004	Jan. 2005
Dollars				
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	3.68	3.31	3.24
Corn	Bu.	2.51	2.22	1.88
Barley (All)	Bu.	3.03	2.84	2.95
Potatoes	Cwt	5.05	4.60	4.65
Dry edible beans	Cwt	18.20	30.20	28.80
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	83.00	86.00	86.00
Other hay (baled)	Ton	73.00	81.00	81.00
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	93.60	105.00	107.00
Steers & heifers	Cwt	94.10	106.00	108.00
Cows	Cwt	45.40	49.00	52.80
Calves	Cwt	114.00	126.00	126.00
Sheep	Cwt	35.10	44.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	103.00	102.00	3/
United States				
Dollars				
Crops				
Wheat	Bu.	3.68	3.39	3.42
Corn	Bu.	2.39	2.04	1.98
Soybeans	Bu.	7.35	5.45	5.32
Barley (All)	Bu.	2.69	2.47	2.37
Barley (Feed)	Bu.	2.15	1.64	1.66
Sorghum	Cwt	4.36	2.99	2.87
Potatoes	Cwt	5.75	5.27	5.35
Dry edible beans	Cwt	17.20	26.70	27.00
Alfalfa hay (baled)	Ton	84.80	92.40	90.90
Other hay (baled)	Ton	70.20	67.10	70.60
Onions	Cwt	18.20	9.04	8.82
Livestock & Products				
Beef Cattle	Cwt	80.90	86.80	89.10
Steers & heifers	Cwt	85.40	91.80	94.20
Cows	Cwt	46.10	48.70	50.00
Calves	Cwt	110.00	122.00	123.00
Sheep	Cwt	104.00	102.00	3/
Lambs	Cwt	43.80	44.80	3/
Hogs	Cwt	36.80	52.30	53.00
Milk sold to plants	Cwt	13.20	16.40	15.90
Broilers	Lb.	0.430	0.390	0.430

1/ Prices received by farmers refer to prices at the point of first sale out of farmer's hands and should not be confused with prices of specific grades or classes of a particular agricultural commodity. They do not include direct government payments.

2/ Price not published to avoid disclosure.

3/ Mid-month prices discontinued.

CHICKENS AND EGGS DECEMBER 2004

Colorado laying flocks produced 92 million eggs during December 2004 compared with 88 million one month earlier and 102 million during December 2003. The number of layers during December totaled 3.96 million, down 6 percent from 4.22 million a year earlier. The average rate of lay for December 2004, at 2,324 eggs per 100 layers, compares with 2,415 eggs per 100 layers during December 2003.

U.S. egg production totaled 7.70 billion during December 2004, up 2 percent from last year. Production included 6.62 billion table eggs, and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 62 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during December 2004 averaged 345 million, up 2 percent from a year earlier. December egg production per 100 layers was 2,235 eggs, up 1 percent from December 2003.

All layers in the U.S. on January 1, 2005, totaled 346 million, up 3 percent from a year ago. The 346 million layers consisted of 287 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 56.2 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.72 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on January 1, 2005, averaged 71.3 eggs per 100 layers, up slightly from a year ago.

GRAZING FEE RATES 2004

Colorado monthly grazing fee rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land in 2004 averaged higher than the previous year in all three categories. Animal unit per month (AUM) averaged \$13.50, up 4 percent from \$13.00 in 2003. Cow-calf rates were up almost 3 percent to \$15.00 per month from \$14.60 last year. Grazing rates averaged \$14.00 per month on a per head basis, almost 4 percent higher than in 2003.

Grazing fee rates for the **17 Western States** listed in the table also averaged higher than last year. The animal unit rate rose 80 cents to \$13.10 per month, an increase of 7 percent from 2003. Cow-calf rates increased 90 cents to \$15.30 representing an increase of 6 percent from last year. A 60 cent increase in the per head rate was close to a 5 percent increase from the previous year.

Grazing Fee Rates for Cattle by Selected States and Regions

State	Survey Average Rates ^{1/}					
	Animal Unit ^{2/}		Cow-Calf		Per Head	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	Dollars per Month		Dollars per Month		Dollars per Month	
AZ	7.50	8.00	7/	7/	8.50	9.00
CA	13.50	14.50	17.50	19.50	14.30	15.50
CO	13.00	13.50	14.60	15.00	13.50	14.00
ID	12.00	12.20	14.00	14.20	12.60	12.60
KS	13.50	13.00	16.50	16.50	13.50	13.50
MT	15.20	15.90	17.40	17.40	15.90	16.20
NE	21.60	23.00	26.00	27.50	23.40	25.20
NV	10.50	10.60	11.80	12.00	11.80	12.00
MN	8.60	9.70	12.40	11.90	10.00	11.00
ND	13.50	13.00	14.50	14.20	14.00	13.50
OK	7.00	8.00	9.00	10.00	7.50	8.50
OR	12.50	13.00	14.80	15.10	12.20	12.50
SD	17.30	17.60	20.20	21.50	19.20	19.20
TX	8.50	10.00	9.00	10.80	9.00	9.80
UT	11.60	11.80	13.40	13.80	12.50	13.10
WA	11.20	10.80	11.70	12.50	11.20	10.80
WY	13.40	13.90	15.50	16.00	13.90	14.30
17-State ^{3/} ...	12.30	13.10	14.40	15.30	13.10	13.70
16-State ^{4/} ...	13.80	14.30	16.40	17.10	14.60	15.20
11-State ^{5/} ...	12.80	13.30	15.10	15.50	13.40	13.80
9-State ^{6/} ...	12.10	13.00	14.10	15.10	12.90	13.60

¹ The average rates are estimates based on survey indications of monthly lease rates for private, non-irrigated grazing land from the January Cattle Survey.

² Includes animal unit plus cow-calf rates. Cow-calf rate converted to animal unit (AUM) using (1 aum=cow-calf *0.833).

³ 17 Western States: All States listed.

⁴ 16 Western States: All States except Texas.

⁵ 11 Western States: AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY.

⁶ 9 Great Plains States: CO, KS, NE, NM, ND, OK, SD, TX, and WY.

⁷ Insufficient data.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide

Web at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>

- Feb. 14 - Turkey Hatchery
- Feb. 15 - Crop Values
- Feb. 15 - Potato Stocks
- Feb. 17 - Milk Production
- Feb. 18 - Cattle on Feed
- Feb. 22 - Cold Storage - Monthly
- Feb. 22 - Cold Storage - Annual
- Feb. 24 - Chickens and Eggs -monthly
- Feb. 24 - Chickens and Eggs - Annual
- Feb. 25 - Livestock Slaughter
- Feb. 25 - Trout Production
- Feb. 27 - Agricultural Prices

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